



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

## Taking a look back at 2003

The state of Washington reports that Clark County's population grew to 372,300 in 2003, an increase of 8,900 residents. That's 24 people, or about 10 families, moving here every day of the year. [Click here for the rest of the article.](#)★

## Engineering Services Launches NEW PRODUCTS: The Hot Plat & Hot Site Plan Lists

Our customers have been telling us that they would like quicker, easier access to information, especially in the area of status on final plat and final site plan application processing.

We are happy to announce that staff has been working on new products to meet this need. Now that we have beta-tested them and have the bugs worked out, we are ready to announce that we will be launching our new products as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. These products will be updated weekly and placed on the Community Development Department web page at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/commdev/engineering/finalsite.html>



The Hot Plat and Hot Site Plan lists serve as a quick reference for both status reports and tracking lists to help keep all the internal and external players informed of progress on application processing. Because both of these processes involve coordination across many players and many divisions, this new tool will serve to improve communications and assist customers in tracking activity.

By logging onto the web site and accessing either of these two lists, customers can see which approvals have been issued, what issues are outstanding, and

get a brief history of recent activity by both county staff and applicants.

We are finding the lists very useful and we are confident our customers will, too. That said, we are always looking for ways to improve our products. Please send feedback to Maureen Knutson at [maureen.knutson@clark.wa.gov](mailto:maureen.knutson@clark.wa.gov) or at (360) 397-2375 ext. 4064.★

## Changes in the Permit Center

The Clark County Department of Community Development is making some changes in the permit center.

## February 2004 Inside:

- ★ Taking a look back at 2003
- ★ Hot Plats and Site Plans
- ★ Changes in Permit Center
- ★ Strategic Planning
- ★ New Animal Control database
- ★ Fee changes
- ★ Dan McNay recognized
- ★ ComDev in the news



**Make an appointment!** We are going to start offering appointments for building applications. This means our customers won't have to sit around and wait on busy days. All you have to do is call us at (360) 397-2375 ext. 4202 to get your appointment scheduled. Watch for more information coming soon.

**Being more thorough.** We will no longer issue Single Family Same-As building permits over the counter. When staff is in a hurry, we start making mistakes in determining things like setbacks and easements. This results in problems later for our customers. Quite frankly, we need to slow down and check the plot plans for accuracy. We will still be handling all the other over the counter permits.\*

## Strategic Planning For The Future

Organizations draft strategic plans as a way to look to the future and to plan for and anticipate change. The department drafted its first strategic plan in 2000 and looked ahead five years. The 2002 update refined the focus of the plan. As a result, we accomplished many of the tasks included in the strategic plan and also moved toward the cultural change desired by the Board of Commissioners, the administration and staff.

We are beginning another strategic plan. It builds upon the successes and lessons learned of the first plan.

Our strategic plan process starts with a re-evaluation of the department mission and goals.

## Mission

Implement the community's vision of the future through managed growth, quality construction and community safety. The department acts to preserve community livability, safeguard the public good, and ensure a healthy environment for future generations.

This mission was defined in 2000 during the preparation of our first strategic plan and will remain the same for 2005-2010.

## Goals

Goals are statements of how the department would like to achieve its mission and satisfy its customers. The year 2000 goals were:

- GOAL 1 - Improve responsiveness to the public.
- GOAL 2 - Improve communications.
- GOAL 3 - Establish an organizational culture of continuous improvement.
- GOAL 4 - Improve community development processes.
- GOAL 5 - Improve stewardship of public resources.
- GOAL 6 - Build a professional environment.

In 2001, the goals were re-framed into three super-goals that drive the department. They directly reflect the values of the department. The super-goals are:

- GOAL 1- Be service oriented.
- GOAL 2- Be open to the public, to one another, and to new ideas.
- GOAL 3- Be professional.

These goals are continued into the 2005-2010 strategic plan update.\*



## Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Team Focus
- County Calendar
- Data Library

## Divisions

- Animal Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning
- Permit Center

Over the next few months we will look at the assumptions underlying the plan, review the functions of the department and develop strategies. Strategies will have concrete implementation projects leading to implementation.★

## Animal Control Plans New Database

The Animal Control division is working on a new database to track pet licenses, facility licenses and complaints. Currently, division staff use three separate databases to monitor their daily activity. We are transferring all this data to the department's permit processing system called Tidemark Advantage. Once the data is transferred in June, information on complaints will be easier to find, licensing renewals will happen more easily and citizens will be able to get information from the department's public access computers in the Customer Service Center.

Community Development will have all of its processes on one database, which saves money on licenses and maintenance. It also allows staff to be better skilled in one database and help one another when problems arise.★

## Fee Changes

On Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, the BOCC approved the department's proposed fees for 2004. The plan is to put the fees into effect on Monday March 1<sup>st</sup>. The proposed fees included 13 fees that encompass one-third of the Development Plan Review/Engineering/Inspection fee revenue and were calculated on cost-of-service based on staff time coding;

the remaining fees in this area will increase 6.0 percent. The fees fund two previously approved staff in Development Engineering and Inspection to improve final plan / final plat processes and improve communication with neighborhoods.

In the Building services area, the fees will decrease 5.28 percent. In addition, we will be able to add 7 Building Inspectors and an Office Assistant in Building plus a CD Specialist in Customer Service.

Thank you to all staff who put in time on this project. This was the best department-wide effort on a fee proposal since the 2000 Performance Audit changed our fee setting process.★

## Dan McNay Recognized for Work with Basin 12A

Dan McNay (second from the right) received an award from the NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association during a recent meeting of the Board of Clark County Commissioners. The association's president, Bud Van Cleve (far left) and resident Curtis Achziger (second from the left) made the presentation along with Commission Chair Betty Sue Morris. Dan got the award for his hard work in helping neighbors survive all of the construction in Basin 12a.★



## What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: [www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org) ★

## ComDev in the News

- County delays Daybreak mining hearing. - The Oregonian (02-25-04)  
[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/107772178654170.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/107772178654170.xml)
- County to gage wetlands' conditions. - The Columbian (02-24-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02242004/clark\\_co/120383.html](http://www.columbian.com/02242004/clark_co/120383.html)
- Amphitheater traffic subject of meetings. - The Columbian (02-19-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02192004/clark\\_co/118978.html](http://www.columbian.com/02192004/clark_co/118978.html)
- County's development fees to rise; building dues to fall. - The Columbian (2-11-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02112004/clark\\_co/116747.html](http://www.columbian.com/02112004/clark_co/116747.html)
- Owner's of Washougal Motocross Park give up battle for new permit. - The Columbian (2-11-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02112004/clark\\_co/116745.html](http://www.columbian.com/02112004/clark_co/116745.html)
- Clark County leader vying for state Senate. - The Oregonian (02-09-04).  
[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/1076331507171720.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/1076331507171720.xml)
- Relaxed rules taking shape in the gorge. - The Columbian (02-08-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02082004/clark\\_co/115493.html](http://www.columbian.com/02082004/clark_co/115493.html)
- Strong Dollar: Dollar Tree finds success providing name-brand goods at a bargain. - The Columbian (02-08-04)  
<http://www.columbian.com/02082004/business/115545.html>
- Pridemore to Challenge Carlson. - The Columbian (02-07-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02072004/clark\\_co/115418.html](http://www.columbian.com/02072004/clark_co/115418.html)
- Development riles folks in Washougal. - The Columbian (02-06-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02062004/front\\_pa/115129.html](http://www.columbian.com/02062004/front_pa/115129.html)
- Closer Look: Oregon woes may boost county. - The Columbian (02-05-04).  
[http://www.columbian.com/02052004/front\\_pa/114792.html](http://www.columbian.com/02052004/front_pa/114792.html)
- County commissioner won't run again. - The Columbian (02-03-04)  
[http://www.columbian.com/02032004/clark\\_co/114176.html](http://www.columbian.com/02032004/clark_co/114176.html)

## Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at [desiree.demonye@clark.wa.gov](mailto:desiree.demonye@clark.wa.gov). ✱